

Christian Community Service Policy

Catholic High's commitment to Christian community service is giving witness to our faith and empowering our young women to let their light shine. Christian community service is a yearly commitment and a prerequisite for advancement to the next grade level and graduation. Through action and reflection, Christian community service provides opportunities to build discipleship within the Catholic High community, the Greater Baltimore community, and the world. In the words attributed to St. Francis, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

Christian Community Service Requirements:

- Students are required to complete 30 service hours every year. A minimum of 15 hours is required by a determined semester deadline.
 - First half of service hours (at least 15 service hours) is due the week of midterm exams.
 - Final portion of service hours (at least 30 hours total for the entire school year) is due April 30, 2021.
- Students may begin logging service hours for the 2020-2021 school year beginning May 2020. Any hours completed prior to this date will not be counted toward the student's 2019-2020 service requirement.
- Community Service hours do not rollover in order that service is part of a student's entire TCHS experience.
- Students *must* serve in at least two different settings within each school year.
- Students will be required to complete a graded Christian Community Service Reflection Assignment through their Theology class. Details and rubrics will be provided through the Theology Department.

Approved Locations:

- Service opportunities must occur within a formal volunteer program or under a direct volunteer supervisor/ event coordinator, at a non-profit that does not conflict with our Catholic values.
- Students are required to serve with an organization included in **TCHS' Community Service Digital Catalog** available through PlusPortals **or in the preapproved categorized settings** listed below:
 - Camps that are faith-based and/or service-based
 - Emergency services (e.g. Red Cross, police, firefighters)
 - Church events, programs, & ministries
 - Community Parks & Recreation
 - Libraries & Schools
 - TCHS Institutional Advancement Office/events volunteer
 - NHS tutoring program
 - Organizations listed in TCHS' Community Service Digital Catalog
- If a student wishes to volunteer outside of these settings at an alternative nonprofit organization, she must first receive approval from Mrs. Baxter, Campus Minister.

Please Note:

- Students may not volunteer in the family's workplace or for her family members. Parents may not sign off as supervisor on logged service hours. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Baxter, Campus Minister.
- The approved locations listed above assure that students are serving the community rather than providing "free labor" or experiencing an internship.
- Students may only receive service hour credit for up to three donated casseroles to Our Daily Bread

Recommendations:

- Begin community service over the summer. It is common for there to be volunteer training or an orientation at many sites, so setting up a site takes some time.
- Students should take the service log form with them at the time of service! This allows them to have the supervisor sign off at that time instead of tracking down a signature later.
- Turn in completed service hour log forms as soon as possible!
- Go beyond the requirement. Service hours are used to nominate students for many scholarships and awards.
- Contact a local, Catholic non-profit organization such as Catholic Charities or St. Vincent de Paul for extensive service locations and opportunities.
- Consider building a meaningful relationship with an organization. It would be both rewarding for the student and helpful for the agency. Committing to an agency provides connections that are helpful in applying to colleges and businesses.
- We encourage students to wear their Catholic High clothing in order to promote our school.
- Ask fellow students from your geographical area where and how they serve for inspiration. You could arrange to serve together and car pool.

The following Service Awards are given at the end of the school year to deserving Catholic High students:

- Mother Generosa Award: 50-99 hours of service
- Saint Clare Award: 100-199 hours of service
- Saint Francis Award: 200 or more hours of service
- Canticle Award: Senior student with highest total number of hours over all four years.

